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REMARKS

Claims 1, 16, and 20 have been amended. Claims 1-24 are currently pending.

35 U.S.C. 102(b) Rejection

The Office Action rejected claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 09-152569 to *Masayoshi* (hereinafter "*Masayoshi*"). In response thereto, claims 1 and 16 have been amended to include, among other features, a detection portion that is adapted to detect an edge of a substrate while the substrate is supported by a stage "by contacting the substrate." The Applicants submit that *Masayoshi* does not disclose this feature. While *Masayoshi* does disclose edge sensors 3a-3d, the Applicants submit that the edge sensors 3a-3d do not appear to contact a substrate. At most, the edge sensors 3a-3d appear to pass over a substrate while determining an orientation of the substrate.

Furthermore, claims 1 and 16 recite that the detection portion is adapted to "stop moving toward the edge of the substrate following said detection." The Applicants respectfully submit that *Masayoshi* does not appear to disclose this feature. As previously noted, *Masayoshi* discloses the edge sensors 3a-3d. However, no where does *Masayoshi* disclose that the edge sensors 3a-3d stop moving toward the edge of the substrate after the edge sensors 3a-3d detect the substrate. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 16 are patentable over *Masayoshi* and respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn. Similarly, claims 3-15, which depend from claim 1; and claims 17 and 19, which depend from claim 16, are patentable for at least the same reasons.

Claim 20 has been amended to recite a method of determining a position of an edge of a substrate which includes, among other features, detecting the edge of the substrate with each detector "by contacting the substrate with each detector." As detailed above, *Masayoshi* does not disclose a detector which contacts a substrate.

Moreover, claim 20 recites "directing each detector to stop moving toward the edge of the substrate following detection of the edge of the substrate by the detector." As discussed above, *Masayoshi* does not disclose that the edge sensors 3a-3d stop moving toward the edge of the substrate after the edges sensors 3a-3d detect the edge of the substrate. As such, the Applicants respectfully submit that claim 20, along with claims 21-24 which depend therefrom, is patentable over the cited reference and respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Office Action also rejected claims 2 and 18, indicating that Figure 4 of *Masayoshi* discloses a switch. The Applicants have reviewed *Masayoshi* and respectfully submit that *Masayoshi* does not disclose a switch. Accordingly, in addition to the reasons noted above regarding claims 1 and 16, from which claims 2 and 18 respectively depend, claims 2 and 18 are patentable over *Masayoshi* and the Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn.

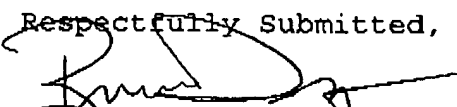
Conclusion

The Applicants believe all the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the same.

The Applicants do not believe any other fees are due regarding this amendment. If any additional fees are

required, however, please charge Deposit Account No. 04-1696. Applicants encourage the Examiner to telephone Applicants' attorney to discuss the amendment should any issues remain.

Respectfully Submitted,



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